

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator LUGAR, the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, and Senator ROBERTS, on the bipartisan work that was done on this legislation. While it didn't get a 100-percent vote, I think they should be commended for keeping their commitment made last fall to get crop insurance to the floor. Senator LUGAR, in his usual way, has worked very hard to bring all divergent views together. I thank the Senator for this important legislation.

Mr. DASCHLE. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks of the majority leader. Senator LUGAR, in the committee as well as on the floor, demonstrated once again why he is admired on both sides of the aisle as a leader in agriculture. This was not easy for him, beginning last year. He maneuvered the committee and brought the Senate to a point where we successfully completed our work.

I congratulate the Senator, and especially I congratulate Senators ROBERTS, KERREY, CONRAD, and others who had a role to play in bringing the Senate to this point. Our thanks to all Senators for their cooperation. I am grateful for the opportunity to have completed this work.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me add, thanks, too, to Senator KERREY and others involved on the Democratic side of the aisle. It was truly a bipartisan effort. I think they should be congratulated. I hope when it comes out of conference it will have 100-percent support.

SENATOR TED STEVENS— ALASKAN OF THE CENTURY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to comment at this time about one of the most effective and respected Senators in this Chamber. He can be ferocious in trying to get his work done, but he always winds up doing it with a smile on his face. He quite often acts as a typical trial lawyer making his case against the opposing counsel or pleading his case to the jury. Of course, we enjoy referring to him sometimes as the "Tasmanian devil." When he comes to the Senate floor wearing his Tasmanian devil tie, look out; he is ready to do the people's business in quick order.

For more than 30 years, the Alaskan of the Year Committee has named an Alaskan of the year who has significantly affected the character and the development of the 49th State. Thus, it is no surprise that in 1974 Senator STEVENS, along with the newspaper pub-

lisher, was named "Alaskan of the Year." Recently, the Alaskan of the Year Committee set out to name the Alaskan of the Century.

I inquired of the Senator from Alaska, which century? The past century for past favors or the present century for expected ones? With the usual sense of humor, he deferred to maybe the past century.

Mr. President, 88 names of great Alaskans appeared on the first ballot. The second ballot contained 12; the third ballot contained 3. On the final ballot, Alaska's senior Senator, who has served so well in this body, TED STEVENS, was named "Alaskan of the Century."

What a great honor. On Saturday night, in Anchorage, AK, surrounded by family and friends, this great honor, Alaskan of the Century, will be conferred on Senator STEVENS. Senator STEVENS has had a role in every significant event in Alaska for the last half century, whether it be as a youth working for Alaskan statehood or his mastery in crafting and shepherding through Congress the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, landmark legislation for which there is no other precedent.

It would take all day to list the great many things Senator STEVENS has accomplished during his 31 years serving in the Senate, and even longer to list all of his friends. Mr. President, not only is TED STEVENS a great Senator and a great Alaskan, he is, above all, a loyal friend to all who know him. Even in the heat of battle, when it gets tough around here, in the next minute or the next hour, he is lovingly trying to do something to help his previous opponent, whether it be in the leadership of his own party or across the aisle in the other party.

His 6 children and 10 grandchildren, and his wife, Catherine, who is special in her own way, know for sure that Senator TED STEVENS, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, senior Senator for the 49th State, is indeed worthy of the honor he will receive this week as Alaskan of the Century.

His service in the military, his service in that State, his service of bringing that State into the Union, his service as a Senator, and his service as chairman of the Appropriations Committee is truly unique. I offer my personal congratulations. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in applauding TED STEVENS.

I don't know how in the world we would even pick a Mississippian of the century. There have been so many great ones in this past century, but in Alaska, it is obvious: The man for that job and for that honor is TED STEVENS. Thank you, TED, for what you do for your country and for your State. We are proud.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me say with enthusiasm how completely this Senator agrees with the statement made by the majority leader. Ted STEVENS is one who is admired, I say even loved, by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We have worked with him; we have admired his work; we have seen on so many occasions he has effectively led not only the Appropriations Committee but the Senate itself in bringing together the kind of consensus, the kind of compromises, for successful legislative action.

We all joke about his temperament. We sometimes say it is hard to understand how a guy from so cold a State could be so hot under the collar. I have to say, as Senator LOTT has noted, he is quick to respond and quick to find ways with which to overcome his frustrations, as we all face them and deal with them on both sides of the aisle.

Alaskans have every right to be proud. They have every reason to nominate and name this individual as Alaskan of the Year. Indeed, he is an Alaskan of the Century. We are proud to work with him, proud to call him a colleague, proud in this case to call him our chairman, and proud of the fact that Alaskans recognize him for the unique talents and the unique dedication and the unique leadership that he provides not only his State as an Alaskan, but his country as a Senator. I congratulate him on this special occasion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thank both leaders for their kind comments about the honor I will receive on Saturday at home. I have been humbled and confused by the decision of those who voted. Having been in our State now for over the last half of the last century, I have known a great many great people who have contributed to our State during the period of the century. For instance, I refer to my first senior partner, E.B. Collins, of Fairbanks, AK, who came to Alaska before the turn of the last century and was a gold miner in Nome. When he was unsuccessful, he walked from Nome to Fairbanks. That is a good 1,500 miles. He read law in an attorney's office, became an attorney, and by 1913 he was named the Speaker of the first territorial House of Representatives. I worked with him and he gave me great advice in the first days when I went to the State.

There are so many others who have been so effective and have done so much for the State that I find it hard to accept the honor.

I intend to make a speech, of course, about that when I get home on Saturday, and point out the number of people who have done the work for which I get credit. Many of them are right here in this room.

We have been, really, very successful in trying to defend the proposition that once Alaska became a State, it should be an equal among equals in our National Government. It has taken many hours on the floor to ask for and receive the support of the Senate to defend the proposition that a new State is entitled to the same benefits, the same prerogatives, as those States that were in the Union ahead of it. I am but the third Senator who has ever served the State of Alaska. My colleague is the fifth. We are unique in the sense we are still a young State. Our State has been a member of the Union only 9 years longer than I have been in the Senate.

It is a distinguished privilege to be here. I am certain this award is being given to me because I am a Member of the Senate and because I am alive and others are not. But I do respect those who made the judgment. I question it, but I respect them, and I do thank my colleagues for what they have done today recognizing that.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I will take the opportunity, as the junior Senator from Alaska, to make a few comments relative to the designation by Alaskans of Senator TED STEVENS, Alaskan of the Century. For years we have been proclaiming the Alaskan of the Year. This is an extraordinary designation to honor an extraordinary individual.

When I first came to the Senate in 1980, as a freshman with virtually no experience in the legislative process, I had an opportunity to have an extended discussion with Senator STEVENS. He suggested the best position for the State of Alaska would be for him to give up his position, his long-standing seniority on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, so I could serve on that committee, and he vacated that spot. He could be not only the chairman of the Appropriations Committee but senior member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and could be chairman if he so chose. But he chose to leave that committee and make an opening available to me. Now I have the honor of serving in that capacity. But it was a sacrifice for him. It was a sacrifice he made on the basis of what was good for Alaska that he pursued the appropriations process, the Governmental Affairs Committee on which he served and continues to serve, as well as the Commerce Committee.

I might add, with his seniority he has the option of serving as chairman of those committees, as well as of the Rules Committee, I believe. So he is really in an extraordinary position of seniority within this body. As a consequence of that, the contribution he has made, it is quite fitting Alaskans have selected him the State's Man of the Century. I do not believe there is a more deserving individual in our State.

That is evidenced by the support Senator STEVENS has received in this nomination.

I am going back to Alaska tomorrow, along with our House colleague, Representative DON YOUNG, to acclaim, if you will, the recognition of Senator STEVENS and his wife Catherine in receiving this award.

He has been a central figure in our young State's history. It has been a time of unparalleled changes in the 49th State. The remarkable thing is that TED, while he has become a figure of national prominence, has not lost his interest and relationship with Alaskans. When we became a State in 1959, we had a lot of catching up to do. Senator STEVENS has been very active in ensuring that Alaska catch up. The rest of the States have been around 100, 150 years, some of them 200 years, but ours has not.

While TED currently ranks sixth in the Senate in overall seniority, second among Republicans—and is just one of 109 Senators who have served in this body for more than 24 years—he still can be found meeting every Alaskan Close-Up student group, talking with residents about health concerns and meeting villagers about their rural sanitation needs.

In his 36-year legislative career—four years in the Alaska House of Representatives and now in his 32nd year in the U.S. Senate, TED has played the largest single role in seeing Alaska, a territory of just 210,000 people 41 years ago, grow into a vibrant, modern state that has more than tripled in population.

In the state's House he crafted legislation to help the state recover from the devastating 1964 Good Friday earthquake. As majority leader in the state's House and Speaker pro tempore, he helped Fairbanks residents recover from the massive flooding they faced in 1967. And in 1989–90 he and I worked together to help craft federal legislation to help Alaska recover from the aftereffects of the 1989 wreck of the *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker in Prince William Sound.

His encyclopedic knowledge of Federal-Alaska State relations is legendary in Washington. In the Senate, which has lost much of its institutional memory in the past decade, TED is able to offer insights on everything from passage of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act in 1974, to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. He can talk about passage of the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation Act of 1978—a law now justly named after him—to passage of the Alaska Lands Act in 1980. Those four laws are the keys to shaping the direction of Alaska as we enter the 21st century. His recollection of events is so extraordinary not only because he helped draft the Alaska Statehood Act, while serving as a legislative counsel at the Department of the

Interior starting in 1956, but because he served as chief counsel and solicitor for the Interior Department in Alaska in 1960—helping to get the young State off and running after Statehood in 1959.

I won't take this Chamber's time to talk about the Senator's early life, or even his impressive military career, where he served as a Flying Tiger in the U.S. Air Force in China during World War II—service that helped form his comprehensive knowledge of the military, which has been such a help to him in shaping our Nation's Armed Forces budgets over the past two decades from his post on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

I do want to speak a bit about what it has been like working with Senator STEVENS. While we have disagreed on only a handful of issues over the past 20 years, TED STEVENS has truly given of his time and shared his great knowledge and expertise to help me to represent the citizens of our State. He has selflessly given guidance and counsel to help our delegation reach a common accord on what is best for Alaskans. And I can't personally thank him enough for his many kindness. We have truly worked together to help our small State, one that sports just three electoral votes, have a voice in the direction of our Nation. It has not always been easy.

We have had to battle those who have no knowledge of what life is truly like in Alaska, whether we are trying to save our timber industry in Southeast Alaska, or trying to protect our rights to access our natural resources—Alaska's main means of supporting our citizens and our State government. We are working together to win the right to produce oil, without environmental damage, from North America's last great storehouse of energy—the Arctic coastal plain.

While TED served eight years as assistant Republican leader (whip) handling key national issues, especially defense matters, he has been willing to put aside personal ambition for the good of his State. Many forget that TED sacrificed his seniority on the Commerce Committee to move to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee during the key fight over the Alaska lands act. He then moved back to Commerce to represent Alaska fishermen—proof positive that TED always puts Alaska first. During his years on the Appropriations Committee, he has battled hard to make sure Alaska receives its fair share of Federal funding—money needed to help Alaska provide basic services to its citizens—piped water and sanitary sewers, roads and schools that Americans elsewhere take for granted.

Today I, join with all Alaskans, to thank him for his skill, drive, and dedication and congratulate him on the honor he will justly receive this weekend. I also offer him a heart-felt wish

for many, many more years of service to the State and the Nation. Nancy joins me in congratulations to both TED and Catherine on this honor. It's been a great privilege working with you my friend.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my friend and colleague, TED STEVENS, on being named Alaskan of the Century. From his efforts to achieve Alaskan statehood to his work on behalf of the State of Alaska, TED STEVENS has dedicated his life to public service and proven his leadership both in his home state and in the United States Senate. I know of no one more deserving of this honor. I am proud to have the opportunity to know and work with him and I extend him my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: The first 60 minutes under the control of Senator DURBIN or his designee, the second 60 minutes under the control of Senator CRAIG or his designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Surely.

Mr. DURBIN. My intention is to speak for 10 minutes, and then I will be happy to exchange time, whatever is appropriate under the rules, so the Senator from Alaska can have his 15 minutes at that point.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that pending the statement by my good friend, Senator DURBIN, I be recognized for 15 minutes. I intend to enlighten my colleagues on the facts and fiction of ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an issue coming up in the budget and an issue coming up in a legislative package we are proposing. I thank my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, just in case there is a session tomorrow, I ask unanimous consent I be excused from any rollcalls until Monday, next Monday morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

GUNS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, hardly a day goes by that we do not hear of another tragic shooting across America. The latest news from Texas is still sketchy, but the results are horrible: Four people who apparently were injured by gunfire in a church and the assailant taking his own life with a gun. It is a constant reminder. Only 2 or 3 weeks ago, a Michigan first grader took a loaded handgun to school and killed his little classmate. That is America today, a nation of some 300 million weapons.

On Capitol Hill, the debate over guns and their future really gets pretty heated and inflammatory on both sides, and the parties are at it. Frankly, as I travel across the State of Illinois and I talk with people from other States, I believe the families in this country get it. They understand what this is all about. They appreciate what we can and cannot do to make things better.

They do not believe for a second that we can pass a law that will end gun violence in America. That is beyond us. I wish we could. I do believe there are things we can do to make America a safer place.

Some want to argue between the possibilities of increased enforcement of current laws and closing loopholes which allow people to get guns who should not have them. That is a false choice. This Senator wants both. The people who misuse guns should be prosecuted and imprisoned, no questions asked. By the same token, we should do everything in our power to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, people with a history of violent mental illness, and children. I think we need both—zero tolerance and zero loopholes. I do not think it is a choice. We need both. If we go after both in an aggressive bipartisan approach, we can start to see the numbers come down on gun violence; we can have a little more peace of mind about our kids going to school and coming home safe and sound at the end of the day.

Last year, we had a bill on the floor of the Senate after the Columbine massacre which focused on two major points: If you buy a gun at a gun store in America, they do a background check. They will figure out whether or not you can legally own a gun. That is the Brady law. The Brady law has been successful.

It is hard to believe, but true, that people with a history of committing crimes and felonies, people who have outstanding arrest warrants—not very bright, I might add—show up at gun stores trying to buy guns. We do not want that to happen. We want to stop them.

There is a role there for the Federal Government in having this law. There

is a bigger role for State and local law enforcement in making sure those people who have outstanding arrest warrants, for example, are prosecuted. That is what happens when you go to a gun store.

We also know in America one can buy guns at gun shows. There is a loophole there: There is no background check. If you happen to have a problem under the law—let's say a felony record or perhaps a history of mental illness or you are too young—you do not go to the gun store where they enforce the law, you go to the gun show where they do not. That is the loophole we want to close. That was in the law that was passed last year in the Senate. The vote was 49-49, incidentally. Vice President GORE cast the deciding vote. We sent the bill over to the House where it has languished for almost a year. Nothing has happened.

The second thing that was in that law, which I think most Americans would agree is common sense, was: Is there a way for those who own guns to store them safely? The answer is obviously yes. It involves trigger locks. You may have heard that Smith & Wesson, the largest handgun manufacturer in the United States, suggested they will start selling trigger locks automatically with their handguns. It is common sense they will give to the gun owner the wherewithal to make their gun childproof.

Some people say: It is the middle of the night and a burglar comes to the door; I am fumbling around trying to find the key—you can decide what you do at night. When you go off to work and leave the gun behind with children in the house or when other kids visit, don't you want to lock it up so a kid cannot get his hands on it and shoot himself or a playmate?

That is what trigger locks are all about. That was the second major part of the bill that passed the Senate last year and still languishes in the House of Representatives.

What is so radical about those two suggestions: That a gun show will try to find out whether or not you are legally eligible to own a gun before they sell it to you; that if you are going to sell a gun in America, it is with a trigger lock so it can be safer?

It is time for us to cool down the political rhetoric around here—and let me be the first to volunteer because I feel very strongly about this—and try to see if maybe there is some common ground. If the people on one side want more enforcement, such as Operation Exile, which is working in some cities across America, I will support it, I will vote for it.

I want more enforcement, too. In fact, I am going to offer an amendment in the Budget Committee which is going to say to my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans: Let's put some money into this. Let's show that we believe in enforcement and prosecution